

"I would say that my son's life is safer, richer, and happier than we thought possible 2 and 1/2 years ago. The supports that we receive through the DOE/DMR project have made it possible to have my son live at home, go to his local school, enjoy typical activities with his peers and have provided us with hope that he can have a meaningful and happy life despite his severe disabilities."

"Our family would like to express how much this grant has helped our daughter and our family. Her support people have increased her opportunities to be with age appropriate peers in C.C.D. and Brownies. She has been successful in both. They are knowledgeable in her multi-mode form of communication and have enhanced her communication skills at home and in the community. They make it possible for her to participate in therapeutic horseback riding..."

"Ann and I remain exceedingly grateful for the DOE/DMR project because it has allowed us to keep both of our teenage daughters at home. They are both making steady progress towards some degree of independence."

"The DOE/DMR Project has made a tremendous difference in our lives. The supports that our son receives through the Project have provided all of us with the services we desperately needed in order for our son to successfully transition back to our family, our community, and our local public school system..."

"...it has been 15 months since we started in the DOE/DMR Project. The change in my son, while slow in coming, has been dramatic. The assistance that he, and we have received from this incredible program has been a godsend. My son has been able to achieve many things that I knew all along that he could do. For that we thank you very much."

Contact Information

If you would like to obtain further information, please contact the DMR office nearest to your community.

Western Region

1380 Main Street, 4th floor
Springfield, MA 01103

Doug McCallum, Family Support Director
(413) 731-7742 x 313

Central Region

Glavin Regional Center
214 Lake Street
Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Terry McNally, Family Support Director
(508) 845-9111 x 138

Northeast Region

Northeast Regional Office
PO Box A
Hathorne, MA 01937

Mark Wolfe, Director of Community Systems
(978) 774-5000 x 548

Southeast Region

68 North Main Street
Carver, MA 02330

Elizabeth Moran Liuzzo, Family Support Director
(508) 866-5000 x 350

Metro Region

Metro Region at the Fernald Center
200 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02452

Susanna Chan, Family Support Director
(781) 314-7532

Central Office

Department of Mental Retardation
500 Harrison Avenue
Boston, MA 02118

Therese Murphy, Project Manager
(617) 624-7787

Or visit our web site at:
www.mass.gov/dmr



Department of Mental Retardation

and

Department of Education

Community Residential/Education Project



*"Success is the sum
of small efforts, repeated
day in and day out"*

Robert Collier

What is the DOE/DMR Community Residential/Education Project?

The Department of Education (DOE) and the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR) are committed to exploring less restrictive, community based options for young people receiving their services.

The intent of the DOE and DMR is to collaborate on meeting the following goals:

- Provide greater flexibility in service delivery based on individual support needs
- Expand public school opportunities via:
 - (a) The return to the community of individuals from residential special education schools; and/or
 - (b) The provision of the necessary supports that would enable individuals to remain in their home communities to prevent residential school placement.
- Increase family capacity to support their child in the home and community
- Provide typical, integrated community, home, and school opportunities
- Provide a continuum of supports among home, school and community

Who is Eligible?

For consideration to participate in the Project, the following requirements must be met:

- The individual must be determined by the DMR to meet its eligibility criteria and have at least one of the following disabilities as defined in the DOE regulations: Autism, Developmental Delay and or Intellectual Impairment.
- The individual must be 6 to 22 years of age and enrolled in a Massachusetts public school and either be:

Currently enrolled in a DOE-approved special education residential school.

or

Be at risk for a residential placement according to the School District. In such case, the School District, at the time of the Project application, must provide a description of the reason(s) why the student is “at risk” for placement in a residential school.

- The responsible school district must be willing and able to develop an appropriate special education program either in-district or in a day school program that meets the student’s individual education needs.
- The individual and family agree to participate and are able to effectively and appropriately utilize the supports offered.
- The supports to individuals and their families must be designed to increase the family’s capacity to care for their child in the home and/or increase the individual’s and family’s capacities for effective interactions within the family and community.
- The services and supports provided to individuals and their families must be in accordance with the DMR Family Support Guidelines and Procedures.

What is the Application process?

Once an individual has been identified as a potential applicant for the Project, the following application process occurs:

- The school district, Area Office DMR coordinator and family meet to develop the educational and community support plan.
- After a plan has been developed and approved by the family, the proposed application is reviewed and signed by the Special Education Administrator and the Area Office DMR Coordinator.
- The Area Office DMR coordinator then submits the completed application, proposed budget and Allocation Request Form to the Regional Family Support Director for his or her review and signature. Based on their approval, the application is then forwarded to the DOE/DMR Project Manager of Family Support in DMR Central Office.
- The request is logged for date received and reviewed by the DOE/DMR Project Manager. Based upon appropriateness of application and available Project funding, an allocation request is then submitted by the DMR Central Office Project Manager to DOE Central Office for final approval.
- If approved by DOE, an acceptance letter is sent by the DMR Central Office to the family, school district, DMR Area Office and DMR Regional Family Support Director.
- If necessary, the IEP team reconvenes to develop an addendum to the IEP to include community/residential supports. At minimum, the IEP should note that DOE/DMR supports are being offered.

